

October 25, 2004

Dillon Tribune
22 S Montana
Dillon, MT 59725-2434

RE: Reclamation Bond Release Legal Notice

Attn: Jennifer

Please publish the following legal notice in the next issue of your newspaper:

LEGAL NOTICE

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is proposing a partial bond release of \$58,000 of the reclamation bond for the reclaimed Sweetwater Garnet Mine 20 miles southeast of Dillon, MT. A bond of \$10,000 will be retained for reseeding, weed control, or any other unforeseen eventuality associated with the site.

Absolute Resources Corp, received a permit from the Department of State Lands (predecessor of DEQ) on November 2, 1995, to mine a placer garnet deposit in sections 17, 20 and 21: T8S R6W, in Beaverhead County. The permit was assigned to Sweetwater Garnet, Inc. on June 19, 1996. The permit was further assigned to Trapeze Resources LLC on June 17, 2004.

Although 55 acres were permitted for disturbance, less than 12 acres were actually disturbed by mining or wash plant operation. Mining commenced on the property immediately upon issuance of the permit in November 1995 and continued for two years until mining operations shut down in November 1997. Maintenance and some interim reclamation continued through June 2000. During the summer of 2001, a small amount of garnet ore was hauled onto the site for processing from other sites. By June 2002 the site was effectively abandoned. Final reclamation began in June 2004 and was completed in October 2004.

DEQ currently holds a reclamation bond of \$68,000 for reclamation of permitted mine disturbances. Removal of plant and equipment, site grading, soil spreading, and seeding were completed on October 20, 2004. DEQ inspected the site on that date and concluded that the site is eligible for a partial bond release of \$58,000.

Reclamation bond release procedures are set forth in Section 82-4-338, MCA, of the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act. DEQ is publishing the final bond release determination in local newspapers and issuing a press release seeking company and public comments. The company and/or the public will have 30 days to comment and/or request a hearing. The company or any person with an interest that may be adversely affected by the final bond release may request a contested case hearing before the Board of Environmental Review within the 30-day comment period.

Information on the partial bond release determination can be obtained by contacting the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Management Bureau, PO Box 200901, 1520 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620-0901, or by calling Pete Strazdas at (406) 444-4962 or e-mail at pstrazdas@state.mt.us. A decision on the partial bond release determination will be issued within 30 days of the close of the public comment period or after the hearing, if requested.

Please attach an affidavit of publication, with an original tear sheet for the run date, to your invoice and send them to:

Department of Environmental Quality
Environmental Management Bureau
1520 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200901
Helena MT 59620-0901

Please charge to DEQ account number: Org. Unit # 535315, DOC # EMB 5035051.

Sincerely,

Pete Strazdas
SMES and Exploration Program Supervisor
Permitting and Compliance Division

file: 158.10
Tina Engel
Pat Plantenberg
Russel Newton
Trapeze Resources LLC
1221 Post Road East
Westport, CT 06880